

REMARKS

Claims 6 and 14 have been amended and claim 20 has been added. Claims 6-20 remain for consideration. No new matter has been added.

The objections and rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

1-3. Claims 6-19 currently stand rejected for allegedly being anticipated by the subject matter disclosed in U.S. Patent 6,611,537 to Edens *et al.* (hereinafter “Edens”).

Claim 6

Claim 6 recites a motor vehicle optical ring network. It is respectfully submitted that the Official Action improperly construes Edens and improperly reads elements of Edens onto the claimed invention to allege that Edens anticipates the claimed invention.

With respect to claim 6, the Official Action contends that the CD/DVD player or multimedia PC of Fig. 1 in Edens reads on the claimed feature of a playback transducer (see Official Action, pg. 2). The Official Action further alleges that “..., i.e., a multimedia PC 170 can be functioned as a controller in controlling devices to adapt to transmit and receive digital media to/and from other network devices according to formats, types or protocols” (Official Action, pg. 3). However, construing Edens such that the multimedia PC allegedly reads on both the claimed playback transducer and the controller fails to properly consider the claimed invention as whole. Specifically, as recited in claim 6 the controller is an element of the data sink. Claim 6 recites that the data sink provides a decompressed data signal to the playback device. The construction of Edens in the Official Action, or any fair and proper construction of Edens, is incapable of reading on claim 6 since the construction set forth in the Official Action construes that the multimedia PC would provide the

compressed data to itself for playback, given that the Official Action alleges that the multimedia PC reads on both the playback transducer and the controller. However, such a construction is clearly not the claimed invention. Significantly, claim 6 recites the data sink includes “...*a bit stream decoder to decompress the received compressed data and provide a decompressed data signal indicative thereof to the playback transducer via the optical data line;*” (emphasis added, cl. 6). Claim 6 further recites that the data sink includes both a data stream decoder and a control unit. Edens neither discloses nor suggests such a feature. The Official Action alleges that the multimedia PC reads on both the playback device and the control unit, but such a contention is incapable of anticipating the claimed invention since construing the multimedia PC of Edens in this manner makes it impossible for Edens to satisfy the feature of “...*a bit stream decoder to decompress the received compressed data and provide a decompressed data signal indicative thereof to the playback transducer via the optical data line;*” since the claimed data sink and the playback transducer are not the same device and are connected together via the optical data line. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Edens is incapable of anticipating or rendering obvious the network of claim 6.

Claim 15

Claim 15 recites an optical ring network for use in a motor vehicle. It is respectfully submitted that the Official Action improperly construes Edens and improperly reads elements of the Edens onto the claimed invention to allege that Edens anticipates the claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 6.

Claim 20 has been added. It is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 6 and 15.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 6-20 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick O'Shea", written over a horizontal line.

Patrick J. O'Shea

Registration No. 35,305

O'Shea, Getz & Kosakowski, P.C.

1500 Main Street, Suite 912

Springfield, Massachusetts 01115

Telephone: (413) 731-3100, x102